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ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau

SITUATION REPORT

DATE: 2022-02-08

FILE NAME: Project HENDON

Report#: 037-2022

Event: Freedom Convoy/BearHug 2.0

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The information in this report is current to 2022-02-08 at 1230 hours.

Owing to the current social protest landscape this Situation Report is organized into three main sections, each with specific information relevant to **Ottawa, Toronto, and Ontario**.

PREFACE: *The format of this Situation Report delineates between police information and information gathered through open sources. Media and social media information has been incorporated in this report towards developing all-source intelligence in support of providing greater context, and which may identify indicators, ideologies, and attitudes that could motivate subjects of interest and influence their behaviours.*

OTTAWA: POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

The OPP continues to be engaged in this initiative with resources on the ground providing real-time updates and observations to the National Capital Region Command Centre – Combined Intelligence Group as events unfold.

- Blockade supporters in Ottawa are carrying jerry cans that are either empty or filled with water.

OTTAWA: OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

- In a video uploaded to Facebook on 2022-02-07, [REDACTED], who appears to be a spokesman for the blockade organizers, stated that his sources had advised him that the police presence in Ottawa was to be increased and issued a request for people across the country to come to Ottawa in

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response. Speaking on behalf of those in attendance, he referenced the 2010 Toronto G8-G20 meetings and stated that they believed that extra police were being brought to Ottawa in order to “kettle” and arrest them. He further stated that a processing centre had been established in Lansdowne for all of the people that will be arrested. [REDACTED] also stated that they are all tired and want to go home.

- The blockade’s daily report noted that the federal government and the RCMP were creating Canada’s own “Tiananmen Square”. It further noted that the federal government is conducting an information operation to provoke civil disobedience and violence; to discourage Canadians from supporting the blockade; and to besmirch the reputations of blockade organizers.
- An image has been re-posted on a Twitter page for [REDACTED] of a male alleged to be a “fed” who had a microphone hidden in his scarf and who allegedly asked the blockade participants to overrun parliament.
- In an online video interview, [REDACTED] states that he would be moving his truck and leading a slow roll. He does not indicate where or when the slow roll would occur.
- Open source research has identified a “Call for Freedom” rally on 2022-02-12 at Parliament Hill.
- Social media messaging indicates that individuals are organizing transporting donations in support of the Ottawa blockade, departing from Fort McMurray, Alberta on 2022-02-15 and arriving in Ottawa on 2022-02-18. Scheduled stops include Edmonton; Lloydminster; Saskatoon; Winnipeg; Kenora; Thunder Bay; Sault Ste. Marie; and Sudbury. Cash donations are also requested through curlycruiser@gmail.com.
- On 2022-02-07, the Superior Court granted an injunction for 10 days ordering participants in the Ottawa blockade not to honk their truck horns. Media reporting indicates that the injunction has been largely effective.
- In an online video statement, [REDACTED] requests the City of Ottawa meet with the organizers on 2022-02-08. He further stated that they would reduce horn honking to five minutes per day in exchange for the City of Ottawa to start a meaningful dialogue to decrease police action that he deemed aggressive.
- Media reporting indicates that the tow truck driver who removed the shack from Confederation Park has received hundreds of harassing phone calls from blockade supporters. Some callers allegedly made death threats.
- Media reporting indicates that two unidentified individuals set fire to a box of fire starters in the lobby of an apartment building in downtown Ottawa in the early morning hours of 2022-02-06. The apartment building is a few blocks from downtown. The reporting indicates that there was a conflict between some residents and anti-mandate protestors a few hours before the fire. The OPS is investigating the incident. No connection has yet been drawn to the ongoing blockade.

TORONTO: POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

- No confirmed events.

TORONTO: OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

- **Tentative information** regarding possible freedom convoy at Queens Park on 2022-02-12.

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ONTARIO: POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

- Inbound lanes of the Ambassador Bridge are blocked by vehicles in support of the Ottawa blockade.
- Westbound Highway 402 backed up from Bluewater Bridge: inbound traffic from US backed up over bridge. Police are gathering information in order to disrupt and prevent the blockading of Highway 402 and the Blue Water Bridge Port of Entry.

ONTARIO: OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

- Open source research has identified a social media post in the name of [REDACTED] (Road Captain) asking to get two “company” drivers for Niagara Falls and the GTA. The reason for this is unknown.
- Images on an Instagram account with the user name “cdngungoonsquad” depict Prime Minister TRUDEAU with flames around him; images of what appear to be automatic weapons, long guns, and other firearms; the DIAGOLON flag; and anti-government and anti-mask messaging. An image of what appears to be a short-stock automatic weapon is depicted with the caption “Trudeau, come and take it!” and numerous hashtags for guns, Manitoba, and Winnipeg. One image represents a quote from the Prime Minister’s description of the convoy as a “small fringe minority with unacceptable views”, while another refers to people being “inconvenienced by our non-compliance”.

Analytical Comment: *The images on this Instagram account suggest that the user supports the blockade, and may be a participant in it. The user appears to be hostile toward government and toward Prime Minister TRUDEAU. It is possible that the user may be based in Winnipeg.*

OTHER

- Media reporting indicates that the Calgary Police Service laid 80 charges against participants in a rolling protest in Calgary on 2022-02-07. This was noted by [REDACTED] in the video of 2022-02-07 (see “Ottawa: Open Source Information Media and Social Media”). [REDACTED] expressed disappointment in this action by police.
- The new fundraiser on GiveSendGo has raised almost \$6.4 M USD and a Bitcoin wallet for the blockade contains over \$685,000 CAD. The ADOPT A TRUCKER account on GiveSendGo has raised almost \$556,000 CAD.

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ASSESSMENT

The situation in Ottawa remains volatile and represents a public safety threat and an officer safety threat.

Support actions across the province appear to be increasing, particularly at border points. Ongoing blockades of bridges to the United States are almost certain to disrupt international trade and negatively affect the Ontario and Canadian economies. Foreign ideological and financial support is helping to harden the resolve of protestors and their supporters, and is validating the narrative of government overreach. As such, the ongoing series of protests and blockades represents a potential threat to Canada's sovereignty and national security.

The ongoing Ottawa blockade is symptomatic of a broader anti-government, sovereigntist movement. Messaging from blockade organizers indicates a deep distrust of government and law enforcement. The "false flag" narrative in which government agitators are attempting to provoke them is indicative of this distrust.

Further, they harbour a conviction of the righteousness of both their cause and their actions. They are convinced that all of Canada supports them. They both create and repeat disinformation and misinformation online to validate their beliefs, particularly those regarding intentions of the police and the government. Their belief in broad support across Canada has been reinforced by individuals in Ottawa and elsewhere in the country either responding to specific calls for action (such as bringing jerry cans to downtown Ottawa to stymie the police) or deciding independently to provide support (such as local convoys and blockades or re-supply convoys to Ottawa).

The blockade influencers have indicated a belief that if the government is unprepared to negotiate with them, it is because extreme enforcement tactics are being planned against them. At least some of this messaging portrays those at the blockade as victims: the degree to which this may be intentional is unknown.

Tactical operations by police are likely to be viewed as unjust and are likely to be declared "illegal" by participants and supporters of the ongoing blockade. They are also likely to reinforce the anti-police and anti-government narratives that blockade organizers and influencers have repeatedly referenced; generate sympathy nationally and internationally; and lead to additional solidarity actions elsewhere in the country.

Project HENDON has identified no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest, Operation BearHug 2.0., or local solidarity protests.

However, the situation is volatile. The potential for an act of violence is likely increasing as the blockade continues, and as supporters across the country organize local and regional support actions.

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ANTICIPATED EVENTS – Support actions (prioritized)

The below event prioritization is based on a matrix analysis of factors that include the scope of the potential impact of each event; affected critical infrastructure (major highways, border points); and indicators of conflict. Events are listed in order of higher priority (red) to lower priority (green).

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	COMMENT
2022-02-12	OTTAWA	FREEDOM RALLY	ATTENDANCE EXPECTED FROM QUEBEC
2022-02-08	AMBASSADOR BRIDGE	BLOCKADE	
2022-02-11	SARNIA	CONVOY	
2022-02-12	PEACE BRIDGE	BLOCKADE	CURRENTLY ONLY ON US SIDE
2022-02-12	KINGSTON	SLOW ROLL	
ONGOING	WALKERTON-HANOVER	SLOW ROLL	
2022-02-11	PROVINCIAL	SCHOOL WALKOUT	
2022-02-09	RENFREW COUNTY	SCHOOL WALKOUT	

ANTICIPATED EVENTS – Support actions (chronological)

This list is derived from information provided by the OPP and its partners. Many of these events have been identified through social media.

The overall situation is fluid: these events may change and spontaneous events may occur without warning.

2022-02-08

- **Lambton County/Sarnia: Freedom Convoy** – WB 402 blocked; inbound traffic from US obstructed; traffic possibly being redirected to Ambassador Bridge blockade
- **Windsor: Ambassador Bridge** – lanes inbound from US blocked
- **Sault Ste. Marie:** blockade at or near international bridge (1200hrs) – unconfirmed; no further detail
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

2022-02-09

- **Renfrew County: School Walkout**
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

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2022-02-10

- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

2022-02-11

- **Sarnia: Tractor Convoy** - HWY 402 westbound (0600hrs). Organizers plan to block the highway until all mandates are lifted.
- **Ontario: School Walkout to Lift Mandates**
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

2022-02-12

- **Ottawa: Call for Freedom Rally** – Parliament Hill (no further details)
- **Saint-Honoré-de-Shenley: Convoy to Ottawa** (0600hrs)
- **Montreal: Rally “Unis dans l’amour pour la liberté”** (1300hrs) – some participants will go to Ottawa
- **Kingston: Slow Roll** – HWY 38 carpool (1300hrs)
- **Niagara Falls: USA-Canada Convoys 2022** – Peace Bridge (1100hrs) – currently being organized only on the New York side of the border
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

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Date:	08 February 2022	

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